

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IMPROVEMENTS TO THE SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2004

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, across the Nation, rates of hunger and food insecurity are on the rise. Since 1999, food insecurity has increased by 3.9 million individuals: 2.8 million adults and more than 1 million children.

The Federal Government, through child nutrition programs, has the opportunity to help dramatically lower the incidents of childhood hunger, giving all children a chance to grow, develop, and succeed in the classroom and beyond. Despite the educational and nutritional benefits of the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), the large majority of students who could qualify for and benefit from these programs are not being served. Currently, only 15% of Free School Lunch Kids participate in the summer programs.

This legislation, designed to improve the Summer Food Service Program, would encourage additional sponsors to participate in the SFSP by directing the Secretary of Agriculture to make competitive start-up grants of no more than \$5 million per fiscal year for the 10 States with the least amount of sponsor participation. Further, it would increase child participation by requiring that 40 percent, rather than the current levels of 50 percent, of the children served by the SFSP in a region come from families below the 185 percent poverty level.

These modest changes will make an enormous difference to the over 13 million food-insecure children across the Nation who would benefit from a reliable source of healthy food to grow, develop, and succeed in the classroom and beyond.

PARAMOUNT—"HAY TREE"

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2004

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, nearly 75 years ago, farmers gathered beneath the soaring camphor and depending on the weather and production level, set the price of hay around the world.

The Hay Tree, a 50-foot-high camphor, thought to be more than 100 years old—is considered one of the few remnants of the once-thriving dairy and hay industry that ruled southeastern Los Angeles County and Northwestern Orange County. From the 1920s through the 1950s this area was called "The Hay Capital of the World."

The Paramount Hay Tree has recently been named the latest historical landmark in California by the State Historical Resources Com-

mission. It was the first awarding of landmark status in southeast Los Angeles County in 10 years. The Hay Tree joins 1,100 landmarks throughout California, only 11 of which are also trees.

According to the Office of Historic Preservation, an object must meet one of the following criteria to be eligible for landmark status: It must be considered the first, last or only one of its kind in the state or region, or it must be connected to a person or group having a significant influence in California history.

The towns of Hynes and Clearwater—which would later incorporate together as Paramount—were the hub of the southern California dairy country and became the world's largest hay market. The alfalfa was shipped in from as far away as Arizona and Montana. Each day's median hay price was quoted in major newspapers as the national and international standard. It was under the Hay Tree—an informal gathering place for truckers, farmers and workers—that the representatives from the area lots would compare notes and come up with the composite price figure.

The Hay Tree still holds sway over Paramount's newest addition—Civic Center Plaza, and will be the focal point of the new Plaza and Botanical Garden. A small park, set aside as open space in perpetuity, will surround the graceful camphor, signifying its sentimental and historical standing in town.

Paramount's oldest banner, the Hay Tree, is one of California's finest monuments—it speaks praise without boasting and will be a blessing to all for years to come.

TRIBUTE TO BOB MAIER

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2004

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I pay tribute today to a dedicated veteran, father, teacher, advocate, musician, and athlete. His leadership and courage touched many lives, including my own, and it is my great honor to recognize and commemorate this extraordinary man.

Robert B. Maier, was a model American citizen. He served in the U.S. Navy after graduating high school. Later, he taught American Studies and English at Mercer Island High School. A staunch advocate for public school and school employees, Bob worked in Washington State Capitol for 20 years. At the time of his death, he was chief lobbyist and director of public policy for the Washington Education Association.

Beyond these accomplishments, one of the most important things about Bob was his enthusiasm for life. Anyone could see it in the way he was always learning new things. He loved to play basketball and music. He read books and solved cross-word puzzles. He took leadership roles in his community. He was a contributor.

Bob's achievements and accomplishments speak to his tremendous love and respect for his community, friends, and family. I know he will be remembered by all those he touched. Our children are receiving a better education because of his long effort, for which we are deeply grateful.

SPIKE IN METAL PRICES—WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR SMALL MAN- UFACTURES

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2004

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, today Chairman MANZULLO and Ranking Member VELÁZQUEZ held an important hearing for the small business. The hearing focused on the increase in steel prices.

Consumers of Steel expected that the removal of the tariffs by President Bush in December would decrease the price of steel and increase steel imports. However, this did not happen. For the past 2 months the price of steel has increased approximately by 30 percent.

The continuing increase in steel prices affects many parts of the economy, but particularly small manufacturing companies who buy their steel at market price. These small companies have not only been dealing with the increase in steel prices, they are now facing shortages in steel products. With these factors combined, it is virtually impossible for small manufacturers to survive.

I would like to share a story of a constituent of mine who has been dealing with this crisis. Argo Springs Manufacturing Company, located in Norwalk, CA, is a family company that has been in business for almost 40 years. They produce numerous products from springs to compression coils. Their customers range from the commercial and aerospace industry to military agencies.

Argo Springs currently employs 70 people, but with the sudden increase in prices and shortages in steel, it has become difficult for the company to compete in the manufacturing market. Randy Fox, vice president of Argo, told me and I quote,

On February 15, I bought steel at 34 cents a pound, but by March 2 the price of steel had increased by 59 cents. I am worried that the company will have to start laying-off workers and eventually go out of business. I'm not sure the company will outlast the crisis.

This story highlights the true impact of this crisis on small business owners. I am worried that if this crisis is not resolved, many small manufacturing companies like Argo Springs will not be able to continue doing business. This is unacceptable.

After talking to my constituent, Randy Fox, one thing is apparent to me—we need to do something about this crisis in the steel industry. Small businesses are the economic backbone of our Nation. It is imperative that we

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